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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. III, NO. 1

MARCH 1, 1981

THE WATAUGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES THE ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

A few years ago historically minded residents of the Elizabethton, Tennessee and Carter County, Tennessee communities banded together to obtain Sycamore Shoals and to convert it into a historic site. A fort stood on the Shoals during the earliest days of white settlement in Eastern Tennessee. This fort served as a gathering point for mountain men on their way to fight the British at what became the crucial Revolutionary War "Battle of King's Mountain." Since the fort's reconstruction, the community has continued to support historical activities in the area through their own organization, the Watauga Historical Association. One of their many projects, was to gather together early Carter County Court Records. Through the good efforts of Frank Gerace and W.G. Ziletti, Sr. (currently President of the WHA), the papers are now part of the Archives' holdings.

The documents derive originally from the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Carter County and cover the period 1796 to 1866. Included in the collection are: affidavits, bonds, depositions, writs, declarations, notes, judgements, oaths, petitions, warrants, subpoenas, and transcripts. Since the Tennessee censuses for 1790, 1800, and 1810 were destroyed, these records are important to researchers concerned with the names, home sites, and activities of the early settlers of East Tennessee. The Watauga Historical Association Collection also exemplifies the excellent work carried out by local historical societies in the areas of document and building/site conservation and restoration.

TOM DANIEL FUND ACTIVITIES

In our last issue of the NEWSLETTER, we reported on the initiation of activities at the Archives concerning a Thomas Nance Daniel Memorial Fund. Local newspapers, the ETSU FACULTY UPDATE, the ETSU Alumni Quarterly (ETSU TODAY) and the EAST TENNESSEAN, all ran articles on the Fund. The Archives also contacted many of Tom's friends and colleagues individually. Thus far, we have received thirteen donations ranging in value from \$10 to \$300. Contributors currently include.

Dr. Robert J. Higgs, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin T. Greninger, Mrs. James W. Loyd, Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Jones, Mr. Albert Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Smith, Mrs. Lois J. Whitney, Mrs. J. David Woody, Dr. Burgin E. Dossett, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Maxwell, Mrs. William E. Rutherford, Dr. Michael E. Crowe, Dr. A.C. and Anne P. Buchanan.

On behalf of the Daniel Family and the Archives of Appalachia, we wish to thank these people for their generous support of our efforts. We will continue to acknowledge gifts in the NEWSLETTER as we receive them.

Money collected in Tom Daniel's memory will be devoted to the acquisition of supplies for the preservation of the Archives' photographic collections, to the training of ETSU students in the maintenance of photographic archives, and to the production of displays based upon the Archives' audio-visual holdings. This June the Archives will hold an official opening of the Thomas Nance Daniel Audio-Visual Collections complete with a display of Tom's photographs, a brief program and refreshments. Contributors to the fund as well as the Daniel family and friends of the Archives will be invited.

Those interested in contributing to the Memorial Fund should make their checks payable to the Archives of Appalachia c/o the ETSU Foundation and send them to The Director, Archives of Appalachia, The Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614. Remember your gifts to the Fund are tax deductible and they will assist us in offering cultural and historical programs on campus and throughout the area.

HARVEY DEAN RECEPTION

Harvey Dean retired as Director of the B. Carroll Reece Museum on January 6, 1981 after nearly nine years of service to the University and the greater East Tennessee community. Many of the fine exhibits and displays sponsored by the Museum during his tenure came about largely due to Harvey's enthusiastic efforts. The Archives has worked closely with Harvey on a number of projects and has benefited from his assistance in our own collection development work. To mark his retirement, the Friends of the B. Carroll Reece Museum are holding a reception in his honor. The reception will take place at the Museum on March 5, 1981 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. A brief program will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity for guests to say farewell to Harvey. Students, University faculty and staff, and the community are welcomed to join in the festivities.

NEH PROJECT UPDATE: AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS GRANT

Under Grant (NEH #) RC-10001-80-1410, the Archives of Appalachia received funds to preserve certain audio-visual collections and to make these collections more accessible to researchers. The collections involved include the audio tape recordings of the Broadside Television, Inc. and WSJK-TV Collections. These materials deal with the oral and musical traditions, the folklore, the history, and the material culture of the Central Southern Appalachians. They were all recorded on outmoded and rapidly deteriorating recording stock. The first stage of the project entailed the re-dubbing of these recordings on to high quality reel-to-reel tape and u-matic video cassettes. Two copies were made of each master. The first is to remain in the Archives as a preservation copy (along with the originals). The second is housed in ETSU's Instructional Materials Center where researchers will have access to the equipment necessary for using these collections. In addition, this second copy may be borrowed on an inter-library loan basis by scholars and students of Appalachian history and culture.

To facilitate both the use and borrowing of these unique Appalachian records, the Archives is currently involved in the second phase of the project-the production of a guide and index to these circulating audio-visual materials. At this stage, the Archives has developed a guide format in conjunction with Profs. Richard Blaustein, Ambrose Manning, and Tom Burton. The guide will include brief descriptions of the corporate collections

and the individual records that comprise each of the collections. The remainder of the guide will be devoted to three indexes: a performer/speaker index, a song title index, and a subject index. The guide will also include loan and duplication order forms as well as instructions as to how the service operates. The guide, entitled: APPALACHIAN FOLK CULTURE AND HISTORY: A GUIDE TO AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS AVAILABLE FROM THE ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA, should be ready this June. If you or your organization is interested in a free copy, contact the Director, c/o the Archives.

NEH PROJECT UPDATE: MICROCOMPUTER GRANT

The NEH has also funded a study by the Archives into the use of microcomputers in an archival setting (NEH Grant # RC-10018-80-1376). Out of this project has come MARS (Microcomputer Archives and Records Management Systems). MARS is a prototype system that includes inventory, word processing, and bibliographic sub-systems. Eventually MARS will have the capability to allow its users to register researchers, edit and print collection guides, search collection descriptions through boolean search routines to locate relevant research materials (down to the box and folder location), manage institutional supply inventories and budgets, and carry out any number of other routine administrative tasks. MARS will function as the "driver" for a series of program packages (so-called "turnkey programs"), each devoted to one or many archival operations.

At this time, MARS is written in both assembly language and Level II BASIC. It is not particularly portable because these languages vary significantly from one computer system to another. The project staff has developed MARS for the Apple II and the Radio Shack TRS-80. However, recent breakthroughs in microcomputer technology and especially the wider use of CP/M operating systems suggest that the microcomputer industry is headed, within the next few years, towards a greater degree of standardization. In any event, the project staff is considering other computer systems, such as Atari and Pet, in their efforts to make MARS as independent as possible from the hardware upon which it is to be run.

Our readers should note that both Archivaria and ADPA (Automatic Data Processing in Archives) will carry articles on the MARS project in forthcoming issues and that an open session of the SAA meeting in Berkeley devoted to microcomputers in archives will feature MARS. It is anticipated that the final report to NEH concerning the MARS project will also appear in a professional journal next year. In addition, Don Hurst and Richard M. Kesner, the co-directors of the project, are currently at work on a volume for Greenwood Press that will examine the use of microcomputers in a library/archives environment.

THE CONGRESS FOR APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT/GORDON EBERSOLE COLLECTION OPEN FOR USE

The Congress for Appalachian Development/Gordon Ebersole Collection has now been processed and is open for use by qualified researchers. The Collection spans the period 1942 to 1977 (predominantly 1952-76) and contains nearly thirty-five linear feet of correspondence, reports, minutes, newsclippings, hearing transcripts, and ephemeral publications. Gordon Ebersole served as Executive Director of CAD and donated both the organization's papers and his personal papers to the Archives in 1980. (See ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA NEWSLETTER, VOL. II, No. 2, p. 1). In November, 1966 CAD incorporated in

West Virginia for the purpose of promoting the restoration of self-determination in Appalachian economic development and of serving as a watch dog and lobbying organization to protect the natural resources of the Appalachian region. CAD's objectives materialized in the form of efforts to support regional public ownership of power generating facilities in the region and to create a series of "new towns" along the Appalachian mountain chain. Despite the sympathetic support of area legislators and newspaper and magazine editors, CAD failed to attract adequate financial backing. Except for a brief revival over the New River controversy in 1970, CAD ceased active operations in 1967.

Gordon Ebersole's personal papers as well as those of CAD chronicle the activities of the Congress. They also include a massive accumulation of information on the development and management of utility districts in Appalachia and elsewhere in the United States. Significant correspondents in the Collection include: Gordon Ebersole, Tom Gish, Harry Caudill, Milt Ogle, Senator Paul Kaufman, Representative Ken Hechler, Don West, Senator Lee Metcalf, and Richard Austin. Other organizations featured in the Collection include: the Council of Southern Mountains, the Council on Religion in Appalachia, the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, the Appalachian Volunteers, and the Appalachian Folklife Center (Pipestem, W. Va.). The nature and scope of the activities of CAD and its founding members, especially Ebersole, make this a rich research collection of particular relevance to the collecting focus of the Archives of Appalachia.

CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD COLLECTION READY FOR RESEARCHERS

The Clinchfield, Carolina and Ohio Railroad is responsible for much of the early twentieth century development of Central Southern Appalachia. In late July 1980, the archives of the railroad were donated to the Archives (along with \$6,500 in assistance to pay for processing costs and materials) by John W. Thomas, General Manager. The Collection spans the period 1899 to 1979 (the Railroad is still very much alive and well), and includes numerous photographs, 132 linear feet of manuscript materials, 14 ledgers, 4 tariff books, and hundreds of architectural and engineering drawings. In 1977 flood destroyed or badly damaged most of the records in the Clinchfield Railroad's records storage center. The Archives staff salvaged those records of greatest research value and sampled files series where either their condition or their volume did not allow for their entire transfer to ETSU.

The Collection is divided into ten series: (1) Minute Books, 1899-1962 (including the minutes of all the C.C. and O. subsidiaries as well as the parent company); (2) Annual Reports to the I.C.C. and the various States where the C.C. and O. operates, 1910-1964; (3) Industrial Agents Correspondence, 1909-1925; (4) Engineering Records, 1906-1973; (5) Personal Injury Files, 1912-1961; (6) Special Excursion Files, 1969-1979; (7) Subject Files (including personnel records, corporate histories, company land holdings, and the papers of the defunct Black Mountain Railway); (8) Financial Records, 1905-1915; (9) Publications; and (10) Ledgers.

The Clinchfield Railroad either directly or indirectly influenced the growth and development of most major industries and business enterprises in the area. In the era before federal and state road building programs opened up the region to automobile travel, the railroad's presence encouraged the construction of a number of resorts and recreational areas along its lines. Last but not least, George L. Carter, the founder of the railroad line, donated the land and the first building for what is now ETSU. Researchers will find the Collection an invaluable resource especially in the areas of regional economic development, and the social and cultural impact of the coming of the railroad on

Appalachian mountain communities.

OUTREACH UPDATE

The Archives slide-tape programs continue to attract considerable public and professional attention. On average, the staff is involved in at least one showing each week. These activities have placed a special strain on staff time. Furthermore, we have discovered that many of our audiences (both adult and college-age groups) would benefit from the availability of show study guides and other educational tools. With this need in mind, we obtained a grant from the American Association for State and Local History to bring Elsie Freivogel (NARS) to our campus. During her three day visit to East Tennessee, Ms. Freivogel viewed all but one of our nine slide-tape programs and met with the staff to discuss audience needs and Archives objectives. Out of this visit grew a blue print for the development of educational "modules" by the Archives staff to address the many and diverse needs of our constituents. We are currently awaiting word from the National Endowment for the Humanities concerning an outreach services grant that would allow us to produce the materials recommended in Ms. Freivogel's report.

Another aspect of the Archives outreach program considered by Ms. Freivogel during her visit was slide-show availability. We periodically receive requests from universities, high schools, and regional service organizations for copies of our programs. The staff discussed with our consultant the problems of loaning our programs in their existing format to other institutions. Ms. Freivogel encouraged us to look into the possibility of converting our programs to a film-strip format. We are currently investigating various options. Look for a further up-date on the Archives outreach activities in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER.

COLLECTIONS RECENTLY PROCESSED

In addition to the two very large collections, the CAD/Ebersole and the Clinchfield Collections, processed this quarter, the Archives is pleased to announce the opening of the following small collections:

The Gretchen Hyder Collection (1939-1953) 1.5 linear feet. This collection includes correspondence between Ms. Hyder and educational officials, teachers and workshop speakers. It also includes minutes, reports, and ephemeral publications pertaining to the various educational organization in which Ms. Hyder involved herself. Researchers concerned with the history and development of primary education in East Tennessee, women's history, and educational administration will find much of interest in this collection.

The Women's Faculty Club of East Tennessee State University (1916-1979) 1 linear foot. While in its later years a social club for faculty wives, the earliest activities of the organization were devoted to the cultivation of student life and activities and the improvement of dormitory conditions on the campus of ETSU. The collection includes: the organization's constitution, minutes, yearbooks, membership lists, financial records, programs, and correspondence.

The WSJK-TV Collection (1976-80) 12 video tapes. WSJK-TV closed its doors as ETSU's extension of the Tennessee Educational Television Network in September 1980. These twelve video tapes comprise the best of their most recent local programming. Included

are half hour interviews with Appalachian authors Sherwood Anderson, Jesse Stuart, and Fred Wolfe (brother of Tom Wolfe). There are also a series of award-winning programs produced by local historian Pat Alderman pertaining to the history of East Tennessee, and the Cherokee Indians. All of these tapes are included in the NEH A-V materials preservation project. (See page 2.)

ARCHIVES DISPLAY SCHEDULE

Stephanie Dixon of the Archives staff has completed the processing of the George Evan Davis Photographic Collection with great speed so that we may share with the public the contents of this extraordinary series of photos. The Collection depicts logging and logging camp life in the period 1910 to 1930. These photographs will be on display the entire month of March. During April the Archives' display cases will be given over to an exhibit prepared by the ETSU Medical School Library (our neighbors) and will concern itself with contemporary health problems in Appalachia. May and June will be devoted to the work of Thomas Nance Daniel (see page 1) former ETSU, University Photographer.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Delta Kappa Gamma, Johnson City Chapter (1937-1979) 4 linear feet. This collection includes all of the papers and publications of this extremely active professional women's organization. Much of their activity is oriented towards community educational programs.

William Sullivan Collection (1911-14) .5 linear feet. The records of a Jonesboro, Tennessee dry goods store prior to the First World War.

Watauga Historical Association Collection (see page 1).

WSJK-TV Collection (see under "Collections Recently Processed").

George Evan Davis Collection (1905-30) 2 linear feet, 150 photographs. This collection includes the earliest records of the George Evan Davis Lumber Company and is accompanied by a series of outstanding photographs pertaining to the harvesting and processing of Appalachian timber. (See also under "Archives Display Schedule").

Kelly and Green Photographic Collection (1920-40) 100 photographs. Kelly and Green is the largest and most prominent photographic company in Upper East Tennessee. Prior to World War II, the Company photographed stores, city scenes (primarily Bristol Tennessee/Virginia), and schools. A number of the more interesting photos have survived and are now part of the Archives photographic collections. Sullins College, King College, and Main Street Bristol feature prominently in the Collection.

The East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad Collection (1868-1920) 11 large ledger books. These are the oldest surviving records of the first railroad to reach East Tennessee. The books contain minutes as well as the financial records of the line in its early years. The Collection also includes records dealing with the operations and services of the ET and WNC. The loss of the larger part of the Company's records is regrettable. Nevertheless, these materials nicely complement the Clinchfield

Railroad Collection just opened.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The following Archives staff members conducting slide-tape presentations during the last quarter: Susan Tannewitz Karnes, Anne Sims, Michael Shandor, E.C. Ostermeyer, David Goodin, Penny McLaughlin, and Richard M. Kesner.

Susan Tannewitz Karnes is on leave from the Archives for the spring and is working in Nashville at the Tennessee State Archives. Her internship will involve both work in their paper conservation program and in the use of SPINDEX to manage State records.

Richard M. Kesner has had his article, "Archival Collection Development: Building a Successful Acquisitions Program," accepted for publication by the Midwestern Archivist and his article, "Microcomputer Applications In Archives: A Study in Progress," accepted for publication by Archivaria. In addition, he has been invited to join a National Symposium on Improving Information Access in Archives directed out of BRISC (University of Baltimore).

APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

Just prior to printing the NEWSLETTER, word arrived that the PROCEEDINGS of the third annual Appalachian Studies Conference meeting, held at East Tennessee State University on March 21-23, 1980, are now available. All of those who plan to attend the ASC meeting at Black Mountain, North Carolina on March 20-22 will receive free copies of the publication. The Archives will distribute the remaining volumes to regional libraries and Appalachian studies centers. We encourage all interested parties to contact the Archives to insure that their institution receives a copy of this excellent publication.

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